Princess x Princess 04/08/2020



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Chapter 1 by Phantim

"You must choose a suitable groom Natalia!" her father yelled at her.

"Isn't my happiness worth more than some /alliance/!" she retorted, tears brimming in her eyes.

"You won't be /happy/ if we lose this war. This is no debate, you will pick someone at the ball tomorrow night. You will give yourself in marriage, it is your privilege and your duty!" With that her father spun around and left, slamming the door behind him. Natalia fell to her knees and began to weep. She was only fifteen and being married off to some random /boy/ or /prince/. How could she even tell her father why she wasn't the least bit interested in such an arrangement. Especially now that he already seemed furious with her. She had even been looking forward to the ball, but now... she was dreading it.

Little did she know, that she would be unexpectedly lucky... and her luck would take the form of a fellow /princess/...

Chapter 2 by R



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This was her duty, as princess. She knew that. She was happy with most of her duties as princess, happy with studying and happy with the dancing, but marriage? She had no interest in any of these princes. They were all complete morons, and she could find no reason her father would want any alliance with them.

Still, she drifted on to the next prince, her face a mask. He stood to the side by the confectionery table, watching the dancers. Perhaps this one would be interesting. Perhaps this one would be different.

As she grew closer, realization flooded her. This was no prince but a princess, and the fact was obvious only to someone close. She wore a dress, yes, but it was shorter than most, and partially concealed by the fancy longcoat. Her hair was cut shorter than expected, and her eyes danced laughingly over the other guests.

Even stranger, Natalia didn't even slightly recognize her.

She walked over as gracefully as she could, head held high, to greet this strange girl who stood overlooking the party. "You haven't joined in the revelry."

"If you could call this revelry." The girl said with a chuckle. "It looks as if someone has let the statuary live, and they are trying their best to imitate what it means to be human." They both laughed at that, and the girl turned to examine her. "Princess Natalia. It is an honor."

Natalia felt her heart flutter as the girl bent down and kissed her hand. "I'm afraid the honor is not returned, as it were: You know who I am, but I am clueless as to who you are."

The girl chuckled. "I am Mei, Crown Princess of the Yuan Empire." She said, and Natalia stared at her for a few moments before curtsying low. This was better than expected.

Her father had asked her to give herself in marriage to someone in the room, and so she would. She supposed he wouldn't be expecting the princess of the country that they were at war with, but he /had/ wanted to end the war.

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"Darling, I thought you'd never ask," she says with a smile. Natalia sensed something about this girl. A certain roughness and rebellion that she had always been told was unbecoming of a princess.

"You have more balls than all the boys here combined. I thought I was going to stand there all night," Mei said with a wink. She then took Natalia's hand and dragged her to the dance floor. Apparently she wanted to lead. The began to dance a quick paced bourrée.

"You're quite a good dance Princess Mei. It's a pity none of the boys sought your hand for a dance," Natalia said politely.

"Oh, yes I suppose. Though I would much rather dance with the beautiful Princess Natalia," she said coyly.

Natalia blushed and looked away. Mei pulled her in close and spun her.

"I-I'm very happy to be dancing with you too Princess Mei," she finally replied.

"Oh please, call me Mei, just Mei. Sorry if I made you uncomfortable..."

"No! Oh, I mean no... I feel so very comfortable with you actually. Actually... there is something I want to ask you, but I can't get the courage. I just have this one night and..." Natalia began to ramble.

Mei slipped her hand from Natalia's and placed it lightly on her lips. "I'll be yours all night. No need to rush. Ask me when you are ready. Okay?"

Chapter 4 by jason dads



It was all going well, Princess Natalia was happily dancing the night away with Princess Mei. Time flew by. "This night might not be so bad after all" Princess Natalia thought.

But the night would not end that way.



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Surprised by the sudden appearance Princess Natalia jumped up in shock before turning around to see her father standing before. Princess Mei's face paled upon seeing Natalia's father. Before Princess Natalia could say anything, Princess Mei's quickly lifted her dress up slightly before placing one knee down with her head bowed low before him.

"It is honor to greet you, Your Majesty- King Reginald the fifth of the Blackshadow Kindom and General Toshihiro of the Nation of Yashitora. This is Princess Mei of the of the Yuan Empire in your presence".

As rebellious as Princess Mei may be, one thing she knows is that the Blackshadow kingdom not to be trifled with. Known to be a Waring nation, its military might and prowess was almost unmatched. The Blackshadow army could annihilate the Mei empire in less than a month, and still fight its current war. Such was the strength of Blackshadow. A kingdom feared across the lands. Only the Mother empire of the Yuan, the mighty Tian empire has a chance against Blackshadow. The King of Blackshadow was know to be quick on his feet and mind which made him a formidable opponent in diplomatic and the battlefield

Ignoring Princess Mei completely, King Reginald took several steps closer to Princess Natalie,

"Explain yourself at once" he said in a quiet but venomous tone, well aware that he is in a.

"Well, as you can clearly see i was dancing with Mei until you had to butt in." Princess Natalia shout back at him defiantly.

"Keep it down, know your place and that is not how you speak to you Father, Natalia", The king said in a stern tone, "Now, have asked you find someone to marry here, it is evident you have not so I picked someone for you."

Switching to a much more gentle tone he continued "This is General Toshihiro from the Nation of Yashitora. A fine gentleman this man is, a powerful general known for his great mind. His war strategies have cost us greatly in past conflicts. As you should know, the relationship between



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Still sensing defiance, the king continued in a serious tone but much more quietly, so that others will not hear.

"It is already arranged that your brother will marry princess Kurono from the Yashitora Nation already, you do not have a choice in this."

Princess Natalia, eyes widened in surprise, but as she was about to speak her father dragged her aside as she resisted in futility.

Princess Mei, still kneeling could only watch in helplessness. Natalia was dragged in to a empty hallway, door closed before finally released. red rings had appeared around her wrist from her fathers grip.

"I refuse to marry a old man" she screamed, "You said that i could pick anyone to marry here yesterday!!, Well i have chosen who to marry, I want to marry Mei!! The Crown princess of the Quan empire"

Her father was silent, Princess Natalia was panting, tired after all the shouting. Eventually Her fathered spoke, in a whisper, almost silent. like a calm before a storm

"Are you serious?"

The princess steeled herself and said "Of-Of-Of course!" it came out as a stutter, her voice quaking.

Princess Natalia suddenly felt very dizzy, a red, hot, sharp pain seared against her cheek. Upon coming to her senses she found herself sprawled awkwardly on the floor, her cheek fiery hot and her father towering above her. She realized she had been slapped.

The king was furious, his face was bright red exploding with rage, "Are you out of your mind!?" the king shouted down at her, "Besides the fact that marrying the same gender is illegal in all nations, you want to marry a girl with such low status?! The Quan is a pathetic excuse of an empire, outcast by the Tian, they can't do anything!!, their lands are arid, their citizens are

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Meanwhile General Toshihiro attended to Princess Mei who was still kneeling and reassured her that Princess Natalia was okay before sending her off on her way.

Knowing that there is trouble brewing between Princess Natalia and her father, the general walked towards the door leading to the hallway.

The princess' eyes were quivering with fear, she knew the answer his father wanted, but did not want to give it to him. so the silence dragged on. Just as her father was about to bring his hand down on her again, the door opened.

True to his reputation, the king without missing a beat, instead of bringing down his hand to deliver a blow, picked up the princesses hand and "helped" he to her feet before hiding her behind him. straightening his clothes he looked up and greeted the person at the door.

Chapter 5 by pandora



General Toshihiro entered, and was greeted by an approving nod by King Reginald. Natalia was too shocked from her earlier outburst and her father's dark statements and she had to be given a gentle nudge before she lowered her head to the General, and the General gave a tiny courtesy in response.

The King's face broke into a smile. "General Toshihiro!"

"--Princess Natalia," he said, his voice very friendly but at the same time distant. A gentleman's tone. "Are you alright?"

The King's face turned red at being so utterly ignored, and Natalia simply nodded. "I am fine." She had managed to catch her breath, and she hoped that she wouldn't slip up again in front of her father. She eyed him from the side, something which the General noticed immediately.

"Ah, I'm terribly sorry. Where are my manners? I am General Toshihiro of the Yashitoran

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than her, but somehow she had a sickening feeling that this was the best she was going to have as an option.

After all...it wasn't like she'd ever be able to marry Mei.

As if he knew what she was thinking, the King interjected her thoughts quite loudly.

"Yes! That is correct! A man of great stature like General Toshihiro choosing to marry you. Isn't it wonderful? It's the best you could hope for!"

Toshihiro turned around quite sharply, standing between Natalia and her father. "King Reginald, was it? If the King who throws these lavish parties while his army is suffering would not interfere, I would be very appeared."

King Reginald turned pale and began sputtering. "Tha-that's--!"

"Though Blackshadow is a warring nation, it bears no love for its warriors. That is something I hope to change."

Natalia looked over Toshihiro again, as though she missed something the first time. He had easily stood up against the King of a kingdom to which his own was not quite friendly, and ridiculed him at his own party.

The General turned back to Natalia.

"Forgive me for the rude intrusion in our conversation. If you would walk with me, Princess of Blackshadow?"

X-X-X

Mei watched the General disappear behind closed doors. Oh, god. Another big-shot. She was sick. She spun around defiantly, stumbling onto someone familiar.

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"I'd say you haven't changed at all." The tall boy with his dark, black hair and sharp eyes was quickly gathering the attention of many of the other princesses.

"And you? You've changed, certainly. What brings you all the way here to Blackshadow at a time of war? Shouldn't you be writing poems or something?" She snickered.

The boy fell silent, and his hand moved to the embem on his shoulder, the clasp of his cape. It bore the symbol of the Kingdom of Yuan-- a dove. But in its talons it did not have the typical olive branch, but rather a sword. In some way, it was his relationship with his little sister. He gave her a soft smile, but she returned no such gesture.

He motioned to the closed door. "That Toshihiro's up to no good, I bet you. And Reginald's a fool as always."

Mei bit her lip.

"Haah!? Don't tell me you're actually taken with that girl?"

"Shut up."

Chapter 6 by pandora



Mei and her brother watched the door carefully as the party went on behind them. A long line of noble girls had formed around, call taking cautious peeks at her brother.

"Hey, Shin."

"--ahha, but you are also a fair lady, so it wouldn't really..."

Siigh. He was already at it, was he? Mei supposed she'd have to deal with that later. She wanted to keep waiting at the door, but she wasn't sure how long it would take before... and then the door opened, and Natalia stepped out, with general Toshihiro arm in arm.

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Che. Now she was thinking something that Shin might say! And yet her eyes continued to stare as the couple advanced, looking for something...until they found it. Natalia looked up from her feet, and all at once their eyes met. Natalia's vast, deep green against her own steely blue. And the blonde princess of Blackshadow gave her a look, lips half parted and face twisted into despair, right before she turned the corner and disappeared along with the general.

The noble girls that had sought to talk to her brother began whispering among themselves, and Mei quickly jabbed at Shin.

"Hey!"

The prince coughed and tried to cover the fact that Mei's elbow was plenty sharp. "I'm going to try something," she informed.

"Oh no." Shin sharply sucked in his breath. "Darling sister, you've got that look."

Mei snorted. "What look?"

"The look you get right before you disappear in the middle of the night. The one you had when you demanded that the tiger cub you found be turned into your royal pet. You know the one."

Mei wanted to feign ignorance, but instead, she smirked.

X-X-X

After a long walk in silence, General Toshihiro said, "Princess Natalia, you are very beautiful. Your beauty is wasted here at Blackshadow, where the King himself is but a fool who throws lavish parties like these."

Natalia felt a little offended at the comment, but honestly, there wasn't anything she could say. She was just a princess after all. God, just Toshihiro towering over her made her feel insignificant.

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Yet... she thought back to just seconds before, when Mei had given her that look. Her heart was beating fast, suddenly, and she tried to clear her brain to think. What would Mei do? That smiling face, the rebellious aura.

"Princess? You look tired."

Oh for God's sake, did he have to be such a gentleman?

"No, General, I'm---"

There was a sudden shriek, like a girlish squeal, and then the sound of something dropping into the water. "EEeeeeeek!"

Toshishiro, almost automatically, put his hand to the hilt of his sword. Natalia began rushing to the source of the sound, and the General followed. Before long, they where in front of a huge fountain, and a tall boy with pretty black hair and blue eyes was sitting right in the middle of it.

"Huh?" She asked, dazed, and the nobles all around (for some reason, most were girls) were completely in a frenzy.

"Prince Shin! Who did this to you?"

Toshihiro's brow lined with suspicion, but before Natalia could say anything to reassure the general, the girl was pulled from behind and into the crowd.

-X-X-X-

"P-Princess Mei!"

"Oh, c'mon. You can call me Mei, you know, Natalie." The raven haired girl gave a smile, and Natalia blushed instantly. The other princess had dragged her into some corner of the hall.

"Thank you for that--" But Natalia quickly realizes that Mei isn't staring at her, but into the

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Mei kissed her.

"Wha-!!"

"In the Kingdom of Yuan, that is how we make promises!"

Now Natalia was even more confused. Her cheeks were flushed, but Mei was in front of her and General Toshihiro was behind her, slowly walking closer to their little hiding spot. Mei began again:

"Natalie...No, Princess Natalia of Blackshadow."

Natalia was distracted, or at least, she should have been. And yet...when she looked at Mei, the rest of the world seemed to blur out.

"I want you to make me a promise, okay?" Mei's eyes glistened.

Natalia nodded eagerly, hanging on her every word.

"Now...I can't save you. In fact, the whole kingdom of Yuan combined probably couldn't save you from that monster there." Mei looked unsure in that moment, like she doubted herself, and it all made Natalia's heart flutter. But the raven haired girl soon looked up, and gave the blone princess a smirk.

"But promise me you won't give up on me, whatever happens, okay?"

Chapter 7 by Pentavalence



-One year later-

Natalia sighed. "Another tour? We were just on one."

"Yes, my queen, but this one is further to the South. The kingdoms of Kashrin, Weil, and Yuan."

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"Yes, my queen." The nameless butler bowed in a flurry of silk ribbons and departed.

Alone in her room, Natalie stared at the ceiling, her thoughts far away. Would Mei be happy to see her? Would the princess be upset? Had she changed? Could they ever be the same as they were that magical night that had changed her life forever?

Closing her eyes, she answered her own questions, one at a time. Of course Mei would be happy to see her. Of course Mei would be upset- she was too. One year hadn't changed that much, not with her and Mei.

Had it?

Chapter 8 by Conor Aedan Daniels



For the past year both Natalie and Mei had kept in close contact. Sending letters to one anther every week. The last time they saw each other was at the party that Natalie's father King Reginald had thrown.

His death was the only reason Natalie had become Queen. Still unwed, he had to take charge of the Blackshadow Empire. Her brother had married and was now running the Yashitora Empire. This was the perfect chance for Natalie to see Mei once again and see if their spark was still there.

Having to run an entire Nation was no easy task. The was had ended but she was on a mission of peace and unity with all of the kingdoms in the nation. A grander force was headed their way and Natalie wanted everyone to ban together and prepare or the horror that the nation was about to face.

12 Kingdoms in the nation and 9 of them now stood as brothers in arms. This last tour was to get the last three kingdoms to join the nation and become a whole for the up coming war that was headed their way.

That next week all was set for Queen Natalie to leave for the south. She had it planned so that her last stop was the Yuan Empire. This was going to bore her but it would all be worth it when she finally got to see Mei after all this time.



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In the past year Mei had still not told Natalie in any of the letters that they had both sent, that she was now the General of the Yuan Army While her brother had taken the throne. He had given Mei complete control due to the fact that she was an unstoppable force and knew she would do a great job at rebuilding the sad excuse of an army that the Yuan Empire had.

The day had come. Natalie was riding into the Yuan kingdom to meet with the king and talk about joining the Blackshadow Nation in the was that was headed for them. The only reason she was even looking forward to this was to see and maybe even spend time with Mei

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